

REMARKS:

Claims 1-8 are pending in the patent application.

Claims 1-3 have been rejected.

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 4 has been objected to.

Claim 4 has been amended.

Claims 5-8 have been allowed.

Claims 9-18 have been withdrawn.

Claims 19-33 have been added.

Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102

On Page 2 of the December 1, 2004 Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 5,342,377 to *Lazerson*. On Pages 2-3 of the December 1, 2004 Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 3,609,864 to *Bassett*. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections of Claims 1-3. However, in order to facilitate the prosecution of the Applicants' patent application the Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-3 without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

On Page 3 of the December 1, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner also stated that Claims 5-8 are allowed.

The Applicants have rewritten Claim 4 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to Claim 4, as amended, and allow amended Claim 4.

Claims 5-8 have been allowed. The Applicants acknowledge and accept the allowance of Claims 5-8.

The Applicants have also submitted new claims 19-33 to further claim the Applicants' invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 19-33 contain patentable subject matter. The Applicants respectfully request that new Claims 19-33 also be passed to allowance.

The Applicants respectfully deny any position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response.

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PATENT

SUMMARY

If any issue arises, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at wmunck@davismunck.com.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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